



TOWN OF KITTERY

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Library Committee Minutes 1-7-16

Present: Steve Workman, Tom Newbold, Tom Emerson, Kristina DeMarco, George Dow, Debra Kam and members of the public - RPL Board member Bill Treadwell, Doug Greene (9:30)

Staff: Nancy Colbert Puff, Lee Perkins

The meeting convened at 9:00 am in Conference Room A.

1. Approval of the Minutes of 12/16/15.

George moved to approve the draft and Tom E. seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve.

2. Library Survey Update

The Committee began reviewing the list of libraries which were sent email questionnaires to be followed up with by phone calls from Committee members. George raised the question as to whether additional Maine libraries should be on the list. Tom N. commented that Maine and Massachusetts had the best available data on line. George inquired as to whether municipal indebtedness could be included as part of the data gathered. Nancy remarked that while indebtedness was a more difficult number to ascertain, the relative tax bases of each Maine community was readily available and would be added.

Lee wondered if energy costs could also be sought from the comparable libraries. Steve thought that energy costs would be very difficult to compare. He did think it important that energy efficiency be an important goal for a new structure, and that he was disappointed that the KCC budget, in the end, did not support making the building as efficient as it could have been. George agreed 100%, and noted that the RPL had a goal of being green.

Nancy suggested assigning Committee members to libraries on the outreach list. George suggested she do this after the meeting, and simply email members their assignments.

George then described the RPL meeting of the prior evening. He stated that the RPL voted to end its pursuit of the Fitzpatrick property, and to instead begin to explore locating a new building on the KCC site, near Goodsoe and Rogers Road. The RPL wanted 1) notify the Committee of their progress, and 2) request a meeting with the KCC Board of Directors to start a discussion about this idea. He said Lee and Mike Lassel were working to develop a 3-D model of what this building might look like, and that the RPL had voted to do an energy assessment with a consultant for \$1,500.

Tom N. asked if re-purposing the Rice building was a possibility. George responded that reusing the Rice building for a library was off the table. He also stated that the Taylor Building on Walker Street

would likely be sold. Lee said a group of interested community members was gathering tomorrow to begin brainstorming about the future use of the Rice building.

Steve asked why the RPL would commit to the Goodsoe location before meeting with the KCC? He also wondered how much progress the RPL had made without first consulting with the KCC?

George emphasized that they were at the beginning. Some effort on cost estimating was being done, at \$0 cost. Tom E. said it may take Wright Ryan (Library consultants) a month to perform an energy analysis.

Steve said he was sensitive to the RPL's limited funds. As he has been outspoken about the decision-making process in the past, he wanted to avoid past mistakes, and thought that whatever presentation is to be made to the KCC should not appear like a "done deal" from the start. He did not want to the KCC to be put into the position of being perceived as "anti-library" again.

George agreed. He said there is a desire to talk about how a new facility at this location would best serve the community, and how the RPL and KCC could work together to deliver the best results to the Town. He noted that it was important for this Committee to be behind the process, and that it would be important to its success.

Tom N. commented that he hoped the Committee would add value, but it very important for the RPL to build consensus. He noted that as he looked at NH data concerning bonding questions for library improvements, the results were "rejected, rejected, rejected."

George agreed that cost would be a consideration, and that the case would need to be made to prove a good return on the investment in relationship to the service provided. The RPL and the KCC would need to work as partners, looking at the site as a campus, and begin to involve the neighbors. Nancy noted that locating on Town land added some complexity to the arrangements (lease?), and that a future Building Committee would probably be in a better position to answer those questions. Tom said that if he were a Town Councilor, he would not want to be on the sidelines for that discussion. Steve noted that the Committee has been a good moderating group. Deb commented that there have been many changes since the Committee began its work, and that a review of its mission would be helpful at the next meeting.

3. Operational Budget Impact:

Discussion postponed until the RPL has completed some of its work on this topic.

The meeting adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for January 27th.